

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the final rejection contained in the Office Action of January 24, 2006 is respectfully requested.

All claims pending in the application, namely 3, 4 and 6-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,801,497 to Kono et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,281,307 to Smigo et al.

INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

Claims 3, 4 and 6-13 stand rejected as being indefinite. The Examiner states that the present range of the copolymer and gelatin as defined in the claims does not find sufficient support in the application as originally filed.

Applicants have amended independent claims 12 and 13 to overcome this rejection. Claim 12 has been amended to define the quantity of copolymer as "between 10 to 75 weight %". Claim 13 has been amended to define the receptive layer as consisting essentially of the copolymer and gelatin. The language directed to the quantity of the copolymer has been deleted.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the Examiners indefiniteness rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS

Claims 3, 4 and 6-13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kono et al. in view of Smigo et al.

The Examiners position remains that Kono discloses a recording media for ink jet printing comprising a support and at least one ink-receptive layer that includes a cationically modified polyvinyl alcohol. The Examiner acknowledges that Kono does not explicitly disclose the copolymer of the general structure as set forth in Claims 12 and 13 but states that such copolymer is within the scope of Kono's teachings. Smigo is cited by the Examiner for disclosing paper coated with a

polyvinyl alcohol/vinyl amine copolymer. She further states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the copolymers disclosed by Smigo as the cationically modified polyvinyl alcohol in the recording medium of Kono. Applicant's respectfully disagree.

Independent Claim 12 has been amended to define R in the copolymer structure as being alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms and the copolymer is defined as between 10 to 75 weight % of the combined amount of the copolymer and binder.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to define the receptive layer as consisting essentially of the copolymer and gelatin. New claims 14 to 19 are dependent claims to further define the invention. Support for these dependent claims are found in the Applicant's specification at Examples 10 and 31 (Claim 14); page 9 lines 2-8 (Claim 15); page 10 lines 12-22 (Claim 17); page 10 lines 23-25 (Claim 18) and page 11 line 22 to page 12 line 2 (Claim 19).

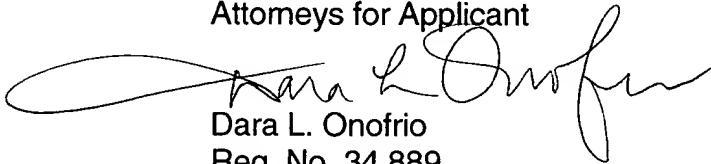
New independent Claim 20 has been added which defines the copolymer, a binder consisting of gelatine, carboxymethyl cellulose, copolymers derived from acrylic acid and esters of acrylic acid or mixtures thereof and a crosslinking agent wherein the layer has a thickness in the range of 0.5 to 30 μ m.

Neither Kono alone, or Kono in combination with Smigo teach or suggest the ink receptive layers as defined in the invention claims. Accordingly, Applicant's believe the Examiners obviousness rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments herein. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of pending Claims 3, 4 and 6-20 are hereby requested. If a telephone interview would be useful to advance this case, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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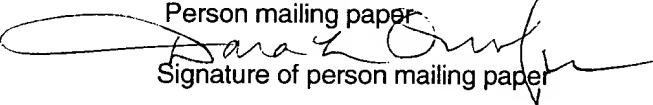
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